

Trinity News

Pentecost 22 The Healing and Reassuring Balm of Peace (Shalom).

Jesus came to his disciples on Easter Day, and said to them, "Peace be with you". After showing them his hands and side, he repeated, "Peace be with you". It is an exultant greeting. The first direct words to his disciples after his resurrection are about peace. Showing them his hands and side demonstrated that he still bore the marks of the end of his historical life at the Cross of Calvary. They were overjoyed at this revelation of his identity and person.

Without someone at our side who really loves us, we lose one of the sure anchors of our identity. The disciples were devastated at losing Jesus, as we all are when we see the faces of those we have loved no more. It is so final when we lose such people as a visual presence to our eyes and a deeply-felt presence in our hearts.

Peace of heart and mind, spirit and body, is a sure anchor of the soul. It leads to greater clarity of mind, a clearer vision of people and situations, and it opens the door to God's peace as an inflow into our being. God's peace is a reassuring balm for all of the emotional wounds, traumas (the Greek word for "wound"), and disappointments of our journey through each day, month and year.

If we intentionally fall into the peace of God we will find assurances that we cannot get otherwise. It shows on our face when we enter a room full of people. Somewhere deep in the love of God and the shalom of God imparted by Jesus there is the secret of a strong, peaceful life. There is no answer to the problem that we have in facing death except the one the Jesus brings from his own death, "Peace be with you".

Shalom, the word that Jesus used with an Aramaic inflection, brings an assurance of peace that cannot be shaken. Eternal life would be unthinkable without being immersed in the Shalom of God before we enter it. It is the home of Shalom.

Christ is our peace because he imparts the peace of God. It is all caught up with letting go of our pride-filled fears and wading into the sea of God's peace, without any fear of losing our footing or being swept away.

Let go and let God be God as Psalm 46:10 says in the Latin translation. Forgive yourself and others, bear goodwill to all people.

The gospel story set for today from Mark 10:46-52 tells of a blind man called Bartimaeus finding his peace one day outside Jericho as Jesus made his way from that ancient city to Jerusalem. The blind man's peace from Jesus came in receiving his sight. His dark world became full of dazzling

light and that brought reassuring peace into his heart. Many aspects of our own blindness are swept aside when we allow ourselves to subside into peace and let the love of God well up in our hearts and minds. It reassures us of our worth as a person, our place in God's plan, and allows the peace that came with the resurrection of Christ himself. It helps to overcome our greatest fear, that have not being, of losing our person and the shape of our identity.

As the old confirmation blessing has it:

Go forth into the world of peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be amongst you and remain with you always. Amen

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:

Wednesday.

- Group Discussion, 7:30pm, Parish Office

Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10:00am, Chapel.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Ecclesiasticus 44:1-10,13-14; Psalm 149; Revelation 7:2-4,9-17
Matthew 5:1-12

TO PLAN:

November 2. All Soul's Day. *Commemoration of the faithful departed, 10:00am.*

November 8. *Remembrance Sunday, 9:30am.*

November 22. Sunday. *Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, 7:00pm, Santuario de San Antonio Parish. Dinner follows.*

November 26. Thursday.

Thanksgiving Dinner, 7:00pm, Holy Trinity Parish Hall. A sign up paper is on the board. Suggested closing date for booking is November 9.

Please join us!
